

**GIBBINGS**

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**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for an asymmetric data connection comprises a head end router which may be coupled to an ATM PVC, a PSTN modem coupled to the head end router, a plurality of downstream routers each couplable to the ATM PVC via respective ATM interfaces, and a plurality of downstream PSTN modems each coupled to a respective downstream router via a respective serial interface. Each ATM interface of each respective downstream router is allocated, in use, a respective IP address in a single subnet. Each serial interface of each respective downstream router is allocated in use, a respective IP address in a single subnet. A method of establishing an asymmetric data connection is also described.